

HOUSE BILL 1493

By Carr

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,
Chapter 86, relative to emergency
communications.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 86, is amended by adding
the following new part:

7-86-501.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as "Constance's Law."

(b) The board shall develop a comprehensive plan for the implementation of a
uniform statewide emergency text message system for the purpose of assisting and
responding to children in an emergency. The system must be compatible with cellular
telephone systems and utilize a single, primary three-digit telephone number to which a
child may text a message for help in an emergency. The system must provide for the
routing of the text message to the appropriate local law enforcement agency in addition
to other appropriate first responders, as determined by the board.

(c) The plan developed under subsection (b) must provide:

(1) A schedule for the implementation, installation, operation,
maintenance, and funding of the system within each emergency communications
district in this state;

(2) Operational standards for the system; and

(3) A review process to ensure that operational standards are being met
within each district.

(d) An emergency communications district may fund the system in the same manner that the district funds similar services in accordance with part 1 of this title.

(e) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Board" means the emergency communications board established under § 7-86-302; and

(2) "System" means the uniform statewide emergency text message system developed under this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.